

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Terry Snyder [TSNYDER@waterrights.swrcb.ca.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2000 11:29 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

I am not blind but I work with and represent hundreds of the blind community and I support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

Terry Snyder  
Division of Water Rights  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000  
(916) 657-2061 FAX 657-1485  
tsnyder@waterrights.swrcb.ca.gov  
Web page [www.waterrights.ca.gov](http://www.waterrights.ca.gov)

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Russell Schermer [schermer@concentric.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2000 9:18 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support discriptive video

X-UIDL: 9b6a99c40115ba26f1d4cb6ff8f7468a

I would first like to thank the ACB for coming out in support of discriptive video. This is a service that has been long overdue. With the proliffferation of ads which tell the viewer to "call the number on your screen," and commercials with no voiceovers as well as programming that have long periods of silence or sound effects with no dialogue audio discription is critical to the enjoyment and understanding of the programs. I hope that we in the blind community can get MM99-339 passed in to law. Sincerely

Russell Schermer  
KA6VUC

Net-Tamer V 1.12 Beta - Test Drive

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Janis Stanger [jstanger@usor.state.ut.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2000 10:37 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support video description

I am legally blind. As a child, I would sit two or three feet from the TV and I could see all the things in the world that others with much better vision could see by simply looking out the window. My mother was very concerned about my television viewing habits, and consulted my ophthalmologist. He told her to let me sit as close as I needed and to let me watch as much as I wanted. After all, he said, she can see many things on that television set that she will never see otherwise. Now as an adult, I am married to a man who is totally blind. We watch very little television. I don't know if I would watch more television if it were video described, but I do know that the described video movies I have seen were much more enjoyable to me and to my husband than the undescribed versions of the same. I also know that if television were video described, no blind person would reach the age of 45, as my husband did, believing that everyone's fingernails are the same color as their hair. Just as watching TV when I was a child, expanded my world beyond anything I ever could have experienced personally, so could video description do the same for my husband and the millions like him. Not only would the blind be benefited, but so would the many sponsors who make television possible in America. Seeing those Carls Junior's sloppy burgers make me want a sandwich from them on a regular basis. Think of how many blind people would be affected the same way. Much of advertising is visual. I would think that sponsors of TV programs would like to get the most bang for their buck and make sure that their ads are "seen" by everyone who watches TV. I urge the FCC to consider the issue of video description very carefully and seriously before taking any action on MM99-339

**Anne Fesh**

**From:** Robert Burke, Jr. [jasper@cstone.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 2:33 PM

**To:** info@acb.org

**Subject:** ISupport Descriptive Video

701 East High Street  
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I would like you to approve the rules that you are making under MM--99--339.

I rememered the night that I watched "Apollo 13" at the 1997 National Convention of the American council of the Blind in Houston, Texas.

Without the descriptive naration I would have missed half of the action that was going on the screen.

So I hope that you will totally approve MM--99-339

Respectively yours,

Robert M. Burke Jr.  
Executive Board Director  
Old Dominion Council of the Blind and Visually Impired

**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** Dinger, Richard H [Richard.Dinger@PSS.Boeing.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 2:54 PM  
**To:** 'info@acb.org'  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

My name is Richard Dinger. I am a blind American writing to express my support for the FCC's proposed rules requiring limited availability of descriptive video services, MM Docket No.99-339. Since PBS can afford to provide DVS for some of their programming, commercial networks should be able to afford some limited version of the same service.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Dinger  
2312 104th Ave SE  
Bellevue, WA ;98004

**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** Diana [dianak@ptd.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 3:37 PM  
**To:** INFO@ACB.ORG  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO

I AM A PERSON WHO IS BLIND, AND I AM WRITING TO PROCLAIM MY SUPPORT FOR THE FCC'S PROPOSED RULE FOR DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO: MM DOCKET NO. 99-339

IT IS QUITE UNSETTLING TO ME TO BE LISTENING TO ANY KNID OF SHOW ON TV AND NOT ALWAYS KNOW WHAT IS GOIN ON. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A NARRATIVE NETWORK THAT AIRED VIA THE CABLE THAT I SBSCRIBE TO, AND IT WAS WONDERFUL. THEY ONLY AIRED FOR A FEW HOURS ON A SUNDAY (THAT I'M AWARE OF), BUT IT WAS NICE TO BE ABLE TO LISTEN TO A MOVIE, BY MESELF, AND KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT ALL TIMES. PEOPOLE WITH SIGHT DON'T THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE TO.

I WORK AT AN AGENCY THAT TEACHES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HOW TO BECOME AS INDEPENDENT AS THEY SO DESIRE. BEING ABLE TO "watch" tv by myself is a level of independence i would certainly welcome. i pay the same cable costs as everyone else, but i am not able to enjoy and understand many of the programs that i listen to.

diana killian  
548 franklin st., 1st floor  
w. reading, pa 19611

3/23/2000

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** mary otten [maryotten@home.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 4:11 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support Descriptive Video

Mary Otten  
925 Fordwood Court  
Catonsville, Md. 21228  
Phone: 410-744-1131

I am a totally blind person who definitely supports descriptive video, and not just for textual messages printed on the tv screen. Much of the content of today's television programs and movies is visual in nature. It is possible to watch a program for literally minutes at a time and hear no meaningful dialogue. INdeed, I would challenge any one of you to turn on your television set some evening, select the programs you wish to watch, and then position yourself so that you cannot see the screen. Then see how much you get out of the experience, as compared to your normal viewing experience. You will, I believe, come away with a greater appreciation of why it is descriptive video must be mandated.

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Bob Hachey [bgh@ConnActivity.ConnActivity.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 4:49 PM  
**To:** Info@ACB.org  
**Subject:** I support Descriptive Vidio

My name is Robert Hachey and I can be reached at 22 Grant Street Waltham, MASSachusetts 02453-4202. I strongly encourage the FCC to adopt the NPRM requiring the addition of descriptive vidio to regular television programming under MM docket 99339. Descriptive vidio makes television, plays and movies accessible to the blind and visually impaired. The FCC did the right thing by the deaf by requiring closed captioning. It is time for the FCC to do right by the blind. Thank you for your consideration.  
Bob Hachey



**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** Theresa Zimmerman [ta35z@webtv.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2000 9:20 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

To whom it may concern I am Phillip McCampbell address 1802 Ekin Ave. New Albany In. 47150 phone number 812-949-7029

I am writting this note to show my support for bill # MM.99-339. DVS adds much enjoyment for me as I am blind. There is not nearley enough of it around, So your consideration of this bill is greatly appricated.

Sincerly Phillip McCampbell

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** vernon j daigle [vdaigle@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 12:53 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video.

To Federal Communications Commission:

We are both totally blind. We know that descriptive video would be a major boost to enjoying and understanding television programming. We strongly support descriptive video under "mm document #99-339".

Vernon and Hazel Daigle  
1919 North Amelia Avenue  
Gonzalews, Louisiana 70737

---

YOU'RE PAYING TOO MUCH FOR THE INTERNET!  
Juno now offers FREE Internet Access!  
Try it today - there's no risk! For your FREE software, visit:  
<http://dl.www.juno.com/get/tagj>.

**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** Crystavox [jwb@ionet.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2000 11:29 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I Support discriptive Video

Jason Boston  
220 SW 34 apt.17  
OKC, OK 73109

I am totally blind and I would love to be able to watch TV that is narrated. Many popular shows would be much easier to follow if I could hear what sighted people see. Please consider further steps to make this a reality.

Thanks,  
Jason Boston

3/23/2000

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Fred Chambers [regenerative@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 2:09 AM  
**To:** Info@ACB.org  
**Subject:** MM Docket number 99-339 Video Description

Dear Federal Communications Commission, et al.

Population projections show that about half of the retirement-aged population are or will be legally blind. As our nation ages, we need to accommodate this gigantic blind population. Please encourage the TV industry to offer more video description. Two main areas concern me: description of the video or image, and reading of on-screen text. I enjoy video description, but it seems artful, and very difficult to mandate. Screen reading, the more important feature seems easy to implement.

Each TV needs an inexpensive optical character recognition (OCR) feature that can be turned off and on. This would solve the problem of text on the screen. This text could be easily read by an inexpensive OCR feature that would enable the blind, or anyone not looking at the screen, to hear the text.

Text on the screen is very common. From news shows with talking heads identified by a caption, to weather warnings and sports scores that scroll across the screen, to those cryptic little words shown during the X-Files. Some text comes from the network, other text is generated by the local station, and emergency text may be generated from a third pathway. All of these could easily be read aloud through a speech synthesizer using integrated OCR software. It looks straightforward to decentralize the screen reading by incorporating it right into the set itself.

While you consider the future of TV description, please ensure that blind access to information will increase. Inexpensive, common sense solutions like OCR are the easy part. Video description is more complicated, and I'll leave that for experts to decide.

Thanks for your time,

Frederick M Chambers  
3510 Bedford Circle  
Carlsbad, CA. 92008

760-505-8500 <regenerative@earthlink.net> Agricultural-Sciences

On location in Carlsbad, Calif. USA. Serving an internship at Hubbs-Sea World's Hubbard Marine Fish Hatchery, and collecting data for my MS in Sustainable Aquaculture from Cal Poly Pomona.  
[http://www.buschgardens.org/endangered\\_species/esV.html](http://www.buschgardens.org/endangered_species/esV.html)

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Rosalie Goumas [ronamoss@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 9:46 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support Dvs mm 99-339

C and I just received your notice yesterday. For the past ten years we have been excited about Dvs and understand Tv more than we ever did. It is also great going to the science museum and listen to the descriptions at the Omni as the movies are presented.

We are both outraged by Nfb's Attitude about this subject. Accessibility means a lot to the blind community and "It is not just an inconvenience". I have always said that as long as the blind community splits nothing is going to get resolved.

Dvs has opened a whole new world in education for all of us. Don't close us out.

Sincerely:

Rosalie and Charles Goumas

Music is a gift from God.

Must be created according to His Will and in Honor of His Glory.

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Joseph Taboada [JTaboada@mail.vetmed.lsu.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 10:11 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** "I support descriptive video"

To whom it may concern,

I am an NFB member and the father of a 6 year old blind child. We were introduced to the descriptive video service when our son was 3 years old and have since used it extensively. It has opened up such worlds as Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Lion King, Arthur, and Star Wars to him and has allowed him to experience something that the others kids take for granted. It has allowed him to be a part of his "society" at a time when integration into a normal social structure is so critical. We are very thankful for the people and the grants who have supported the descriptive video service. It is only too bad that there is not more available on regular television or in the movie theaters that would open those worlds up to him as well. I support the FCC's effort to expand the use of the descriptive video in much the same way closed caption is used for the deaf community.

Thank you for all of your support in this area.

Joseph Taboada  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** Cheryl Duke [cduke@wcduke.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 10:28 AM  
**To:** Info@ACB.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video



cduke.vcf

**From:** Cheryl Duke, Member American Council of the Blind  
8049 Ormesby Lane  
Woodford, VA 22580-3211

**To:** The FCC

I support the descriptive video initiative under "MM Docket number 99-339. This will give people who are blind or have low vision the same access to television and videos that closed captioning gives persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Patricia Ellis [robin308@ime.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 11:08 AM  
**To:** ACB  
**Subject:** "I support descriptive video"

George Roderick  
9 Hancock Street  
Augusta, ME 04330

I am blind and I support descriptive video as described in MM Document No.  
99-339.



## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Ed Guerra [edguerra@mail.utexas.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 11:34 AM  
**To:** Info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I suport descriptive vidio

Edward F. Guerra  
4810 Rustown Drive  
Austin, TX 78727

I am blind and I suport docket MM number 99-339.

Edward Guerra

**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** Michael D. Barber [m1437b@home.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 12:33 PM  
**To:** info@ACB.org  
**Cc:** LaDonna Seliger  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO

I am Michael D. Barber, 1437 Guthrie Avenue, Des Moines, Ia, 50316-1611, President of the Des Moines Chapter, Iowa Council of the United Blind. We are a local chapter of blind persons committed to improving the social and economic well-being of blind Iowans and blind people everywhere.

I, along with several members of our chapter, have had the privilege of "viewing" movies which have been adapted for descriptive video and have enjoyed them very much. We fully support the proposed rule by the FCC which would require the movie industry and the television networks to provide programming with descriptive video for the benefit of blind persons who either watch television, attend movie theaters or purchase or rent movies.

We believe the testimony put forth by the National Federation of the Blind and espoused by Direct TV, other cable networks, the major television networks and the movie industry indicating that a majority of blind persons aren't really that interested in descriptive video and that providing descriptive video should be voluntary and not mandatory, is unfounded and untrue. They do not speak for a majority of blind persons who use and want descriptive video.

Therefore, we urge the adoption of MM Docket number 99-339 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Michael D. Barber, President  
Des Moines Chapter  
Iowa Council of the United Blind

Michael D. Barber  
ICQ #60005213

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Travis and Jean Van Winkle [JT-VanWinkle@worldnet.att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 12:35 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** descriptive video

I wish to express my strong support for the FCC'S ruling regarding descriptive video for the blind. I refer to docket no. MM99339. I am blind myself and could make great use of descriptive vide o if more were available.

Jeanie Van Winkle

info@acb.org

**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** Pam Brandin [pbrandin@pcbvi.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 1:05 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video Services

Dear Chairman Kennard and Members of the FCC:

I am writing on behalf of Peninsula Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Palo Alto, California, in support of descriptive video services to make television programs accessible to people who are unable to see them because of blindness or visual impairment.

Our agency was founded on the conviction that sight loss need not be a barrier to self-reliance or self-esteem, and our services to 1,000 people annually enable them to achieve their highest potential for independence in the sighted community. Being able to access the information, education, and entertainment programs on television is of great importance in achieving self-reliance, self-esteem, and independence.

More than half of our clients are over the age of 60 and the majority of these older individuals have lost their vision due to the process of aging. They are often isolated, lonely, and depressed. They, and the other younger individuals who may be better able to participate more fully in the community, would benefit greatly by having the ability to hear what those of us who are sighted can see on television.

I urge you to move forward with requirements for increased descriptive programming on television.

Sincerely,  
Pam Brandin, Executive Director  
Peninsula Center for the Blind  
and Visually Impaired  
2470 El Camino Real, #107  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
650 858-0202

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Marlaina Lieberg [marlaina@traico.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2000 1:12 PM  
**To:** info@ACB.org  
**Subject:** I support Descriptive Video

The single greatest barrier I as a woman who is blind must face is the inequity in communication of the printed word or the unspoken dialogue in a movie. Video description is equal in importance to me as captioning has been to persons who are deaf. I support this concept, and stand prepared to do my part to help the Commission bring it about.

My right to know will be dramatically more assured once I too can see all the things communicated to the human eye.

Mrs. Marlaina Lieberg  
632 S. 189th St.  
Burien, WA 98148

(206) 243 1716

Marlaina Lieberg, President  
TRAICO, Inc.  
Opening Doors Through Opening Minds

"The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight but has no vision."

Helen Keller, (1880-1968)

## Anne Fesh

---

**From:** Gail Elaine Irons [brightskies@wans.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2000 7:31 PM  
**To:** Info@ACB.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Gail Elaine Irons, M.A.  
3719 W. Cavalier Dr.  
Phoenix, AZ 85019-1717  
(602) 225-1717 March 14, 2000

Dear FCC Staff:

I support the FCC's proposed rules for descriptive video - MM docket #99-339.

I am a psychologist in private practice. I have been blind since a childhood accident in 1954.

If you have not already done so, please try "watching" TV with your eyes closed; see how long you can stand it; not through a whole program, I'll wager. Gets confusing, doesn't it - with some shows more than others.

I am aware that some blind people are not interested in DVS; nevertheless, even they would glean more from television programming if it were available. So long as listening to added narration is optional - not automatically a part of the soundtrack every viewer hears - it would be very desirable.

Ironically, the ranks of legally blind people are increasing rapidly, due to a combination of medical advances keeping premature babies alive and enabling people to live longer. I doubt you hear much from elderly blind folks. When people lose vision late in life, many tend to "drop out" of community activities, sad to say. Nevertheless, the majority do watch/listen to television. Whether or not you are hearing from them, you can bet they would appreciate descriptive audio letting them know what they would otherwise miss.

Also, many commercials lately have had little or no narration, leaving me to wonder what they are about. Blind people are consumers. With the possible exception of car ads, advertisers would do well to provide at least audio description (if not regular narration/dialog).

Sincerely yours,  
Gail Elaine Irons  
Wishing You Bright Skies,  
GailElaine

Wishing You Bright Skies,  
GailElaine

**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** jacobsli@concentric.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2000 8:37 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support discriptive video

From; Linda Jacobson  
2915 Circle Ridge Dr.  
Orange park, FL 32065

Please consider that blind people should have better access to television programs. I support the FCC proposed rules MM docket number 99.339.

**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** Jerry Sparks [wb4owc@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2000 10:03 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Dear FCC Commissioner,

My name is Jerry Sparks and being blind I support Descriptive Video. I live at 1004 Drexel drive in Homewood, Alabama. My zip code is 35209. I also have many blind friends and most of them support it also. The proposed rule for Descriptive Video is MM Docket No.99-339. Being somewhat technical, amateur extra call wb4owc, I know that it is easier and far more economical that it, description, be added initially and not as an after-thought. It will be no more difficult than was Closed Captioning now so prevalent in movies and television as well as the other forms of media.

Please support and vote in favor of MM Docket No.99-339

Thanks  
Jerry Sparks



**Anne Fesh**

---

**From:** Jerry Sparks [wb4owc@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2000 10:05 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Dear FCC Commissioner,

My name is Teresa Sparks and being blind I support Descriptive Video. I live at 1004 Drexel drive in Homewood, Alabama. My zip code is 35209. I also have many blind friends and most of them support it also. The proposed rule for Descriptive Video is MM Docket No.99-339.

Please support and vote in favor of MM Docket No.99-339

Thanks  
Teresa Sparks